

### **The Blessing Of Confidence** (2 Timothy 1:12)

**Proposition:** We live in days of breathtaking uncertainty. News headlines generate more questions than confidence. But confidence is the birthright of every child of God. Not Self-Confidence but Saviour Confidence. Here in this familiar verse of scripture there are three keys for unlocking the rich blessing of Christian Confidence.

#### **I. Confidence is Completely Convinced**

- A. Convinced By Acquaintance (...I know...)
- B. Convinced By Authentication (... and am persuaded...)

#### **II. Confidence is a Competent Keeper**

- A. Competent by His Identity (... whom...)
- B. Competent by His Ability (... that he is able to keep...)

#### **III. Confidence is a Conditioned Commitment**

- A. A Condition of Reliance on Christ (... I have believed...)
- B. A Condition of Relinquishing to Christ (...I have committed...)

## The Blessing of Confidence (d Timothy 1:12)

Daniel Webster Whittle was born Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, about ninety miles west of Boston, on November 22, 1840. He left home as a teenager and moved to Chicago, where he secured a job as cashier at the Wells Fargo Bank. When the Civil War broke out, Whittle enlisted in the 72nd Illinois Infantry. He had fallen deeply in love at the time, and on the day prior to his departure, he married his sweetheart, Abbie Hanson. With trembling heart, Abbie watched her new groom leave with Company B, heading into the bloodiest conflict in American history. Imagine her alarm when news came that he had been badly wounded in the Battle of Vicksburg and taken prisoner by the Confederates. His injuries were serious. He had lost his right arm. But the Lord was in it, for while in the hospital recovering from his wounds, the young POW grew bored. Looking around for something to read, Whittle grabbed a spare New Testament. As he read its words, his heart was moved and he felt a need to accept Christ as his Savior. He wasn't ready to do that, however, and he drifted into sleep. Shortly, a hospital orderly awakened him, saying that another POW was dying and wanted someone to pray with him. Whittle replied that he was unable, that someone else should be called. The orderly said, "But I thought you were a Christian; I have seen you reading your Bible." Whittle later wrote, "I dropped on my knees and held the boy's hand in mine. In a few broken words, I confessed my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed and pleaded God's promises. When I arose from my knees, he was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to

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I Confidence is Completely Convinced  
In the children's book - A Series of Unfortunate events, the three orphan children went to stay w/ an Aunt that was afraid of everything

the refreg came fall on them, the glass door know

**A. Convinced By Acquaintance** - Paul said "I know whom" The word know here means to know w/ the outward senses. Paul once Saul, met the Lord Jesus on the Road to Damascus, Saw him w/ his eyes. None of us share that same experience but it also means to perceive in the mind. This Book of God allows us to know God in our minds and hearts. It reveals his character and his purposes. It also means to be acquainted with. Have you met the Lord Jesus? Become acquainted w/ him. John's 1st Epistle <sup>3</sup> is so that we may know

**B. Convinced By Authentication** -

Not only do I know Jesus and been acquainted with him thru knowledge about Him. But I have been persuaded by Him. Here Paul dips into his experience of walking w/ Jesus. Persuasion comes by proofs or authentication - Listen on March 20, 1994 I believed on Jesus as my Saviour. But since then that salvation as been authenticated, by a change in love's love for Jesus, love for God's people, a change in loyalties: loyal to God's word, loyal

**II. Confidence is a Compellent Keeper** -

You have heard me say this many times but it bears repeating again a belief system is only as good as the cliff on which it



1) ...bring me to the Savior used me to lead him to trust Christ's precious blood and find pardon." Daniel Whittle later, as an expression of his testimony of faith in Jesus Christ wrote I know not why God's wondrous grace to me he hath made known nor why, unworthy, Christ in love redeemed me for His own. But I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto Him against that Day" We live in days of breathtaking uncertainty. News headlines generate more questions than confidence. But confidence is the birthright of every child of God. Not Self-Confidence but Saviour Confidence. Here in this familiar verse of scripture there are three keys for unlocking the rich blessing of Christian Confidence.

2) ...door knobs could explode, the soup could burn their tongue so it was served cold. May Christians live in a fearful unconvinced state but not the Apostle Paul. His confidence stemmed from a convinced state.

3) ...we may know: 1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. One author writes " God bids us to rest on His Word."

4) ...loyal to my heavenly father. A change in longings, longing for righteousness in my walk, longing to see others come to know the Lord that I know, longing to be with my Saviour some day in heaven. Persuading proofs!

1) ...that are quite knowledgeable of their belief system. There are many people that are even persuaded of its authenticity by outward conformity to that system. But in the end it will crumble and fall next to the person and power of Jesus Christ.

2) ...right now? Your goodness, your church membership, an experience you once had, a familiarity with the things of God. Or are you trusting in the fact that Jesus' death on the cross was sufficient to pay your sin debt.

3) **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

4) **Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

5) **Philippians 3:21** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

6) **Romans 14:9** For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

7) ...tested and tried, God's power and ability to save and to keep is well beyond by ability to stumble and falter. John 10:27-28  
My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

the belief rests. There are a lot of people that are

A. Competent by His Identity - "I know whom" Bible commentator Guy King said "It cannot always be said that the believer knows What, knows When, knows Where, knows Which, knows Whether, or knows Why - But he knows Whom! Paul's belief was not based on a feeling or an experience it was based on an identity - Jesus Christ. Many Christians lose the blessing of Confidence because they can't remember what they said, or when they said it. What is important is what are you trusting in right now?" (2)

B. Competent by His Ability - "he is able". Christ is competent in his ability the word itself means "one who is preeminently able or powerful". Jesus is able to Save! Matthew 28:18 (3) Jesus is able Heb 7:25 (4) Jesus is able Philip 3:21 (5) Jesus is able (6) One author said "The storms of life might strain his cordage and tug at his anchor, but the believer need not get adrift, because God can hold him steady fast and sure." (7) I speak from experience of a faith tested and tried.

III. Confidence is a Conditioned Commitment  
I remember standing in front of the swing bridge at Rock City when I was a child. Looking at that bridge not knowing that it



was designed to hold a capacity well beyond  
A. A Condition of Reliance on Christ -  
"I know when I have believed." The  
word believe means to trust. To believe<sup>one</sup>  
is to entrust your spiritual + eternal well-  
being to the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 John  
5:1, Rom 10:10 John 6:47. To believe  
on Jesus is to recognize our complete  
inability to save ourselves from God's coming  
judgment upon sin and to receive the free  
gift of God's payment for sin: The death &  
resurrection of God's dear Son on the cross for  
our sin. ③ When the great missionary John C. Pata

B. A Condition of Relinquishing to Christ  
Not only had Paul submitted in  
belief to Jesus, but he had surrendered  
his all to Jesus. The word "committed"  
is a word that pictures a man with a treasure  
and in order to protect it he, deposits it  
into a bank or a safe until the day it is  
required. In the context of our verse, Paul  
reflects on the great difficulty and hardship  
enclosed for the call of God on his life.  
But here in firm confidence he knows that  
his life is safe<sup>(4)</sup> against the Day of the Judge.

IV Close - Some years ago Time  
magazine reported on a nervous motorist  
in Lambertville New Jersey. This man, on  
being stopped by the police, explained

- 1) ...well beyond the weight of an eight year old boy. Not knowing that it's moorings were secured in a condition four times that of any safety concern. I did not enjoy confidence of that bridge until I stepped out on it. The condition to confidence it to step out on it.
- 2) The Bible tells us in 1 John 5:1, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." The Bible says in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Jesus Himself said in John 6:47, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."
- 3) ... great missionary, John C. Paton, was translating the Scriptures for his South Sea Islanders, apparently there was no word for "believe" in their native tongue. For a long while he was well-nigh baffled. One day a native came into his study, and tired out, flung himself down on a chair, rested his feet on another chair and laid back full length, saying as he did so something about how good it was to lean his whole weight on those chairs. Instantly Dr. Paton noted the word the man used for "lean his whole weight on." The missionary had his word for "believe."
- 4) ...Day of the Judgment Seat of Christ. Where the investment of a life entrusted to Jesus will receive a great recompense of reward.
- 5) ...the police, explained that he had been driving on two hundred and twenty-four consecutive learner's permits over the last twenty-five years. He had flunked his first driver's test and had been unsure of himself ever since. Don't live in uncertainty!